GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4835
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
WAGES FOR PLANTATION WORKERS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the wages and deal the package including relief package of plantation workers in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for monitoring the benefits of Provident Fund (PF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for the said workers in the country including Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) : The wages for plantation workers is fixed in tripartite agreements between the concerned State Government, representatives of Estate owners and Plantation labourers. In Kerala, the wages of workers engaged in rubber, cardamom and tea plantations have already been revised to Rs.265/-, Rs.215/- and Rs.180/- respectively. In closed plantations, relief measures such as marriage assistance, educational assistance, provision of drinking water facilities and treatment assistance have been taken to the workers through the Plantation Workers' Relief Committee.

(c): Establishments engaged in tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom, pepper, cinchona and mixed plantations, are covered under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and their workers who are enrolled as members get benefits of Provident Fund as admissible under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976. However, plantation sector/workers are not covered under Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

(d): As on 31.03.2011 the number of such covered establishments was 5,096 involving 4,00,909 workers as members of the Employees' Provident Fund. As far as the State of Kerala is concerned, 1,099 plantations establishments are covered under Employees' Provident Fund and 1,14,199 workers have been enrolled as members of the Fund. The compliance is regularly monitored through auditing of returns and periodic inspections by Enforcement Officers.